



FOREWORD

Wyong Local Government Area (LGA) is ideally located on the northern fringe of Sydney and close to the industrial powerhouse of the Hunter Region. Yet Wyong LGA is a world away from its big city neighbours, boasting a beautiful coastline, waterway, rural valleys and mountain backdrops that all contribute to a relaxed living environment. However, the LGA is also a growing business centre that has much to offer decentralising firms. We also have strong and long-established rural, construction and retail sectors.

The LGA's current population of 150,000 is expected to grow to 200,000 over the next 20 years, creating a number of planning challenges. A key objective of the Community Strategic Plan (2030), Council and the communities' plan for the future, is that communities will be vibrant, caring and connected with a sense of belonging and pride in their local neighbourhood. One of the major factors in achieving this goal is the development and implementation of a Settlement Strategy.

The Settlement Strategy has been developed to provide a blueprint for the growth of the LGA with accessible and reliable transport, a strong regional economy, a vibrant community and a healthy natural environment for us all. This Strategy embraces the vision adopted in the Community Strategic Plan, and aims to direct the community's aspirations into strategic actions for future development and growth to 2031.

The Settlement Strategy provides an analysis of demand, supply and nature of land and identifies where additional land may need to be set aside for residential, business and commercial development while retaining the LGA's enviable natural environment. It clarifies how the balance can be reached between constructed development and the natural environment.

It is important to identify opportunities for the location of new urban release areas and other development opportunities to give landowners and investors greater certainty about the future. A Settlement Strategy also acts to mitigate the inherent speculation when it comes to any land use planning and future settlement. It also identifies how and where infrastructure and services will be needed and should be provided.

The Strategy should decrease conflict over land use decisions in the future and increase the good decisions made at the local environmental planning or development stages. The preparation of a LGA-wide Settlement Strategy is important to the ongoing responsible and sustainable management of land use decisions in the Wyong Local Government Area.

Michael Whittaker
GENERAL MANAGER

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INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

Covering an area of more than 830 square kilometres, Wyong Local Government Area (LGA) is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the east and has a coastline stretching 35 km from Bateau Bay to Catherine Hill Bay. Wyong LGA, together with the Gosford City LGA is situated between Sydney and Newcastle and forms the region more broadly known as the NSW Central Coast.

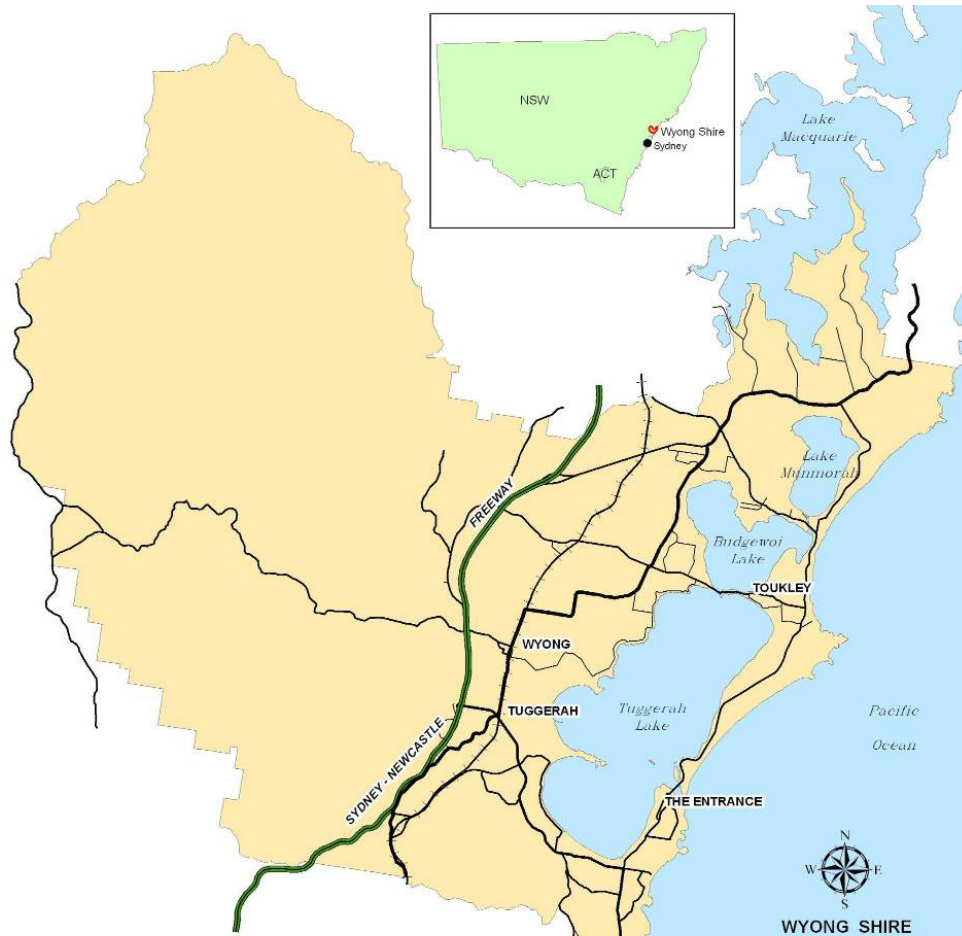


Figure 1: Map of Wyong LGA

Rich in natural biodiversity, Wyong LGA has three main lakes forming the Tuggerah Lakes System: Tuggerah Lake, Budgewoi Lake and Lake Munmorah. Lake Macquarie also forms part of Wyong LGA's northern border. The LGA contains Dooralong and Yarramalong Valleys and the Olney, Wyong and Ourimbah State Forests.

BACKGROUND

THE LEP REVIEW

Since 2004, the NSW Planning System has been moving through a series of planning reforms. To date, reforms have included several amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (EP&A Act), the primary legislation that guides planning and environmental assessment in NSW. An essential component of the planning reforms is the requirement for each Council in NSW to undertake a comprehensive review of their Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and prepare a new LEP in accordance with the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plan) Order, 2006*, also known as The Standard Instrument. The Standard Instrument is part of a broader package which aims to reform local planning across the State.

At present, Wyong Local Environmental Plan, 1991 (Wyong LEP 1991) is the primary planning instrument guiding development within the LGA. Wyong LEP 1991 establishes the framework for the range of land use activities that occur within our LGA. Much of the initial planning for this document was undertaken approximately 20 years ago, with the last major amendment 10 years ago. Since that time the context has changed for a range of issues and challenges that face our LGA, therefore a major review of our existing planning instruments is required. This is known as the LEP Review.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The LEP Review will deliver three project outputs (the Settlement Strategy, Wyong LEP 2013 and Wyong DCP 2013). These documents will sit in a broader planning framework of state, regional and local planning policies:

1 Settlement Strategy

On 12 March 2008, Council committed to the preparation of a Settlement Strategy. Replacing the function of a Local Environmental Study (LES) under Section 57 of the EP&A Act, the Settlement Strategy establishes a framework for land use and development activities that are consistent with State, regional and local planning objectives.

2 Wyong Local Environmental Plan 2013

Wyong LEP 2013 will be prepared in accordance with the Standard Instrument, which prescribes a standard dictionary of definitions; identifies zones and zone objectives; and

mandates permitted and prohibited land use activities in certain localities. Wyong LEP 2013 will replace the existing Wyong LEP 1991 and will apply to all lands within the Wyong LGA. Wyong LEP 2013 will endeavour to free up development whilst protecting the natural environment so loved by the community.

3 Wyong Development Control Plan 2013: Development Provisions for Wyong Shire

Consistent with amendments to the EP&A Act, Wyong DCP 2013 is being prepared to ensure that only one DCP will apply to individual sites within the LGA. The DCP will act as a mechanism to implement policies and guidelines that cannot be achieved through Wyong LEP 2013. As the current Wyong DCP 2005 references Wyong LEP 1991 and supports the current practices and policies of the Council, a number of provisions will be amended or made redundant by the gazettal of Council's new LEP, and Wyong DCP 2013 will be prepared to support and clarify those requirements.

WHY A SETTLEMENT STRATEGY?

Traditionally a holiday and retirement area, the LGA has experienced rapid population growth over the last 30 years, reflecting the areas' attractive living environments, relatively affordable housing, and location in commuting distance to Newcastle and Sydney. Managing future urban growth is a key strategic issue within Wyong LGA, faced with the key challenge of accommodating an increased population as projected in the Central Coast Regional Strategy, 2008 (CCRS).

Future urban growth needs to occur without significant impact on biodiversity and conservation values, while at the same time protecting existing and potential resources. Therefore, a balance must be struck between new urban release areas and urban consolidation (increasing residential densities within existing urban areas), as well as the impacts of this growth on other unique attributes of the LGA, such as our rural areas, diverse ecosystems and natural resources.

Any future urban growth within the LGA will need to take into account the existing and desired future character of the area, existing land uses and infrastructure, environmental values, social and economic factors, as well as natural hazards such as flooding, bushfires and climate change impacts. Therefore, the Settlement Strategy establishes the framework to plan for future urban growth in Wyong LGA over the next 20 years to 2031.

The Settlement Strategy aims to establish the strategic direction and framework for the Wyong LGA and inform the preparation of Wyong LEP 2013 and Wyong DCP 2013: Development Provisions for Wyong Shire.

TIMEFRAMES

The Settlement Strategy has been prepared to complement CCRS and North Wyong Shire Structure Plan (NWSSP), documents that have been prepared to cover the period up to 2031. Therefore, the Settlement Strategy has been prepared to also cater for the population growth anticipated to 2031. This document will need to be reviewed periodically to ensure continued currency of issues and actions.

HOW TO USE THE STRATEGY

The Settlement Strategy is divided into ten chapters as follows:

- **Introduction**

This chapter describes the purpose of the Strategy, Objectives, strategic context of the Strategy and how the Strategy will operate.

- **Planning for Community**

This chapter considers community services and facilities, open space and recreation, educational and health facilities, and emergency services available to residents.

- **Planning for Utilities Infrastructure**

This chapter primarily considers the servicing and infrastructure for our water supply and sewerage network; stormwater management, waste management and public utility undertakings.

- **Planning for Transport**

This chapter primarily considers the Road Network; Public Transport, including the Bus and Rail Network; On-Road Bicycle and Shared Pathways system; and alternative forms of transport.

- **Planning for Environment**

This chapter considers biodiversity conservation; Green Corridors; catchments, lakes and waterways; wetlands; groundwater; environmental amenity, heritage; and scenic protection, within the LGA.

- **Planning for Natural Hazards**

This chapter considers the impacts of Acid Sulfate Soils; Bushfire and Coastal Erosion; Flooding; Soil Instability; Salinity; and Climate Change particularly on the frequency and intensity of other identified natural hazards.

- **Planning for Economy and Employment**

This chapter considers employment lands, commercial and retail development, business parks, agriculture, tourism, resource extraction and economic development.

- **Planning for Settlements and Housing**

This chapter considers our Residential Centres, Greenfield and Infill Development, Rural Residential Development, and Affordable and Aged Housing.

- **Land Use Strategy**

This part takes into consideration the preceding “theme” chapters and incorporates an overall Land Use Strategy for Wyong LGA, identifying development areas and recommended staging timeframes for each area.

- **Governance and Implementation**

This part provides mechanisms for implementing the Settlement Strategy. All actions identified in preceding chapters are given a priority and assigned to a responsible party, which will assist Council in monitoring and reviewing the Strategy to ensure that the required actions are kept on track.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Settlement Strategy replaces the *Residential Development Strategy (2002)*, and applies to the entire LGA. The Settlement Strategy aims to provide a comprehensive series of objectives and actions relating to land-use and strategic planning. The aims and objectives are as follows:

- Support the objectives of the NWSSP and CCRS;
- Provide overall strategic direction for the LGA;
- Direct future growth to the most appropriate locations based on an understanding of constraints and opportunities;
- Provide sensible timeframes for urban growth to guide planning and infrastructure investment;
- Promote the efficient and equitable provision of services, infrastructure and amenities and ensure that new urban land release contributes to infrastructure costs;
- Foster economic, environmental and social well-being so that the LGA becomes a sustainable and prosperous place to live, work and visit;
- Encourage economic development within the LGA to reduce reliance on other regions for employment and support a self-sustaining economy;
- Protect valuable agricultural land from inappropriate development;
- Encourage a range of housing, employment, recreation and human services to meet the needs of residents;
- Provide liveable communities with equitable access to a range of community services and facilities for recreation, culture, health and education;

- Encourage ecologically sustainable development;
- Conserve, protect and enhance the environmental and cultural heritage and visual character of the Shire;
- Minimise community risk in areas subject to natural hazards;
- Promote a high standard of urban design that enhances the existing and desired future character of areas;
- Reduce reliance on cars for transport within and between urban centres;
- Prepare for future impacts of climate change on both public and private infrastructure and assets.

PLANNING CONTEXT

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND PLANNING CONTROLS

Consideration has been given to the range of legislation requirements and their relevance to each component of the LEP Review. Legislation required to be considered is further discussed in the context of this Strategy:

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

The EP&A Act aims to ‘encourage the proper management, development and conservation’ of land to promote ‘the social and economic welfare of the community.’ In addition to identifying the processes of development assessment, the EP&A Act governs state, regional and local plan-making and specifies requirements with respect to the commencement and preparation of new LEPs.

State Environmental Planning Policies

Dealing with State-level issues, State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) are made by the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure. SEPPs serve to alter LEPs by either providing restrictions or relaxing certain provisions regarding development and land use activities.

Section 117 Ministerial Directions

The Minister for Planning & Infrastructure, under Section 117(2) of the EP&A Act issues directions that relevant planning authorities such as local councils must follow when preparing planning proposals for new LEPs. The directions cover the following categories:

- Employment and resources
- Environment and heritage
- Housing, infrastructure and urban development
- Hazard and risk
- Regional planning
- Local plan making.

STATE AND REGIONAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

NSW State Plan

The State Plan: a Direction for NSW (State Plan) was released in November 2006 and updated in 2010. It defines the overall goals and outcomes for consideration by State Government Agencies over the next 10 years. Reflecting the vision of communities across NSW, the State Plan sets clear priorities for Government action. The following priorities are relevant to planning for future urban growth within Wyong LGA:

Supporting Business and Jobs

- Maintain and invest in infrastructure
- Increase business investment and support jobs
- Speed up planning decisions
- Drive innovation to grow productivity
- Cut red tape
- Ensure a reliable electricity supply.

Better Transport

- Increase share of journey to work trips on a safe and reliable public transport system
- Consistently meet public transport reliability targets
- Improve the efficiency of the road network
- Maintain road infrastructure
- Improve road safety
- Increase walking and cycling.

Clever State

- Make sure children have the skills for learning by school entry
- Support students to reach their full potential at school
- Engage students in learning for longer
- Improve access to jobs and training
- Increase access to knowledge and skills in partnership with universities.

Healthy Communities

- Improve and maintain access to quality healthcare in the face of increasing demand
- Improve survival and quality of life for people with potentially fatal or chronic illness
- Improve health in the community Director General, NSW Health Minister for Health
- Reduce potentially preventable hospital admissions
- Improve outcomes in mental health.

Green State

- Tackle climate change
- Develop a clean energy future
- Secure sustainable supplies of water and use our water more wisely
- Protect our native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways

- Improve air quality
- Reduce waste.

Urban Environment and Lifestyle

- Increase the number of jobs closer to home
- Grow cities and centres as functional and attractive places to live, work and visit
- Improve housing affordability
- Increase the number of people using parks
- Increase the number of people participating in sporting activity
- Increase the number of people participating in the arts and cultural activity
- Increase the number of people engaged in volunteering.

Strengthening Communities

- Strengthen Aboriginal communities
- Increase employment and community participation for people with disabilities
- Reduce the number of NSW people who are homeless
- Improve child wellbeing, health and safety.

Keeping People Safe

- Reduced rates of crime, particularly violent crime
- Reduce levels of antisocial behaviour
- Reduce re-offending
- Improve the efficiency of the court system.

Metropolitan Plan for Sydney, 2036

Following the release of the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy – City of Cities; A Plan for Sydney's Future in 2005 and the Metropolitan Transport Plan; *the Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036* was released in 2010. Linked to the State Plan, this plan defines a number of Strategic Directions to provide a framework for sustainable growth and development. The Strategic Directions include:

- Strengthening a City of Cities
- Growing and Renewing Centres
- Transport for a Connected City
- Housing Sydney's Population
- Growing Sydney's Economy
- Balancing Land Uses on the City Fringe
- Tackling Climate Change and Protecting Sydney's Natural Environment
- Achieving Equity; Liveability and Social Inclusion.

Central Coast Regional Strategy, 2008 (CCRS)

The CCRS was prepared in response to the original *Sydney Metropolitan Strategy – City of Cities: A Plan for Sydney's Future (2005)*, and was one of 10 sub-regional Planning Strategies developed by the State Government for the Greater Sydney Metropolitan

Region. Aiming to ensure that land is available and appropriately located to sustainably accommodate projected housing needs and promote employment opportunities to 2031, the CCRS establishes a vision to facilitate a 'prosperous, sustainable, liveable and well-coordinated future for the Central Coast.'

The Settlement Strategy aims to implement CCRS actions to ensure that local strategic directions remain consistent with both State and Regional planning guidelines and nominated sub-strategies, including the NWSSP; draft Central Coast Regional Conservation Plan (CCRCP); and Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy (REDES). Further discussion on the CCRS and how it relates to the major components of the Settlement Strategy is provided further within this document.

North Wyong Shire Structure Plan (NWSSP)

The need for the NWSSP was originally recognised by the CCRS to ensure a continual supply of Greenfield land and to meet dwelling targets identified by the State Government. Prepared by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DP&I), the NWSSP identifies land that is suitable for urban development and nominates appropriate land use activities in Greenfield locations.

Covering an area of more than 11,500 hectares, the NWSSP area extends from Wadalba in the south to Lake Macquarie in the north. As the focus of future Greenfield development, it is anticipated that the area will accommodate an additional 16,682 dwellings and between 12,100 and 17,000 jobs. Major constraints to development within the NWSSP include flooding, sea-level rise, biodiversity, and mineral resources. The Settlement Strategy has incorporated planning undertaken by DP&I for the NWSSP area.

Draft Central Coast Regional Conservation Plan (CCRCP)

The CCRS identified the need to protect biodiversity values of the Central Coast. Currently being prepared by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), the draft CCRCP aims to establish a guide to nominate habitats and landscapes appropriate for protection and to further identify mechanisms to fund biodiversity conservation.

Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy (REDES)

A long-term strategy for sustainable economic development and jobs growth for the Central Coast, the REDES was adopted in 2010. Aiming to create 'a positive environment for government and business investment' and facilitate the creation of an additional 45,000 jobs, key strategies identified by REDES include:

- Attracting new businesses and supporting existing businesses
- Improving training and skills development opportunities
- Increasing research, knowledge and innovation
- Ensuring appropriate planning processes and land supply
- Planning for regional economic centres
- Providing new infrastructure

- Marketing the region as an attractive business location.

LOCAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Over recent years, Council has completed a number of plans and strategies that have considered community aspirations and the need for a sustainable LGA, and that aim to improve the quality of life of our residents. One of the primary purposes of the LEP Review was to ensure that these values are appropriately integrated into the land use planning and decision-making framework for Wyong LGA.

In order to appropriately understand each of the principles and ensure that appropriate land use implementation measures can be developed, the Settlement Strategy considers how Wyong Shire Council can sustainably cater for our current, projected and visiting population to 2031. The Settlement Strategy has had particular consideration for Council's *Living Sustainably in Wyong Shire* (2009); the *Community Strategic Plan* (2011); and the *Wyong Shire Community Plan 2008-2013*. These plans have been the guiding influence for the development of the Settlement Strategy. Additional consideration has been given to specific local, regional and state directions. Directions established by the *Community Strategic Plan* (2011) and Council's *Community Plan 2008-2013* are identified.

Community Strategic Plan, 2009

Adopted by Council in 2009 and amended in 2011, the Community Strategic Plan is the community's 20-year Plan for the Wyong LGA. While the overarching aim of the Community Strategic Plan is in 'Creating Our Ideal Community: Caring, Prosperous and Sustainable,' eight priority objectives have been adopted to facilitate the implementation of our vision and improve our resident's quality of life. In considering how to appropriately plan for growth within Wyong LGA over the next 20 years, the Settlement Strategy has considered the eight priority objectives of the Community Strategic Plan:

Communities will be vibrant, caring and connected.

There will be ease of travel.

Communities will have a range of facilities and services.

Areas of natural value will be enhanced and maintained.

There will be a sense of community ownership of the natural environment.

There will be a strong, sustainable business sector.

Information and communication technology will world's best.

The community will be educated, innovative and creative.

Table 1:
Eight Priority Objectives
(Community Strategic
Plan 2011)

Whilst not forming part of the eight priority objectives, additional objectives include:

- A high level of information about the natural environment and environmental change will be maintained and available.

- Residents will be active participants in setting the direction of their communities.
- Communities are safe and will have a clear perception of security.
- Individuals have access to a variety of housing types that enable residents to buy or rent accommodation locally.
- High quality, sustainable development will be sympathetic to the local setting and reflect community values.
- There will be a long-term integrated approach to the provision of both new and existing infrastructure.
- Education, training and skills development in Wyong LGA will reflect the region's specific employment needs.
- There will be an integrated transport system that satisfies users' needs.
- People in the community will lead healthy, active lifestyles.
- Access to basic and specialist health care services will be available to all community residents.

The Community Strategic Plan also contains the following action relevant to the preparation of the Settlement Strategy:

- Developing and implementing the Settlement Strategy. This should clearly lay out the areas for residential, business and commercial development while retaining the natural environment. It should clarify how the balance can be reached between constructed development and the natural environment.

Wyong Shire Council Community Plan (2008-2013)

Developed to reflect the challenges, aspirations and key social issues facing our community, the Community Plan (2008-2013) is a guiding document for various Government and community groups. The Community Plan aims to (amongst other things), improve Council's ability to respond to changing community priorities; integrate social aspects of sustainability with the broader sustainability principles and strategic planning process of Council; and set strategic direction and actions in providing current and long-term direction for social planning and community development in the LGA.

The Community Plan identifies ten outcome areas to improve our quality of life:

- Our Community
- Places and Spaces
- Young People
- Diversity
- Health
- Habitat
- Communication, Information and Participation
- Community Safety
- Achievements in Life
- On The Move.

Living Sustainably in Wyong Shire (2008)

The *Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act, 1997* amended the *Local Government Act, 1993* (LG Act) to require Councils give consideration to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), defined as 'the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes.' It is achieved through the specific implementation of the following:

Table 2: ESD Principles

Precautionary Principle:

If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Intergenerational Equity:

The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity:

Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a key consideration.

Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:

Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms, namely that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services.

Integration of ESD principles is increasingly important to Council operations. *Living Sustainably in Wyong Shire* is a project that has sought to 'build partnerships and develop a Sustainability Decision Making Framework (SDMF) and help provide a strong focus, clear direction and the more effective integration of actions and resources in working towards a sustainable' LGA. The SMDF has been developed to provide the overarching framework for Council's decision making and provide direction to improving operational and development practices. A key component of the SDMF was the preparation of six principles for sustainability for application in different systems throughout Council:

We successfully integrate ecological, social and economic sustainability.

We support our long-term vision, focussing locally in a global context.

We protect the natural environment to help maintain healthy ecological systems.

We apply good governance, striving to improve our processes and outcomes.

We build partnerships by engaging with and listening to the community.

We lead by example and support actions for sustainability.

Table 3:
Principles for
Sustainability

OUR COMMUNITY

To adequately and appropriately plan for our future urban growth, it is important to give consideration to the current and future trends within our community profile, including population, demographic structure and social indicators:

POPULATION

Historical Population Growth

Since reaching peak population growth in 1989, Wyong LGA's population growth rate has steadily declined, with an average annual growth rate of 2.7% from 1991-1996, 2.4% from 1996-2001, and 1.4% from 2005-2010. In spite of this decrease, 1.4% growth placed Wyong LGA as the 10th fastest growing LGA in NSW.

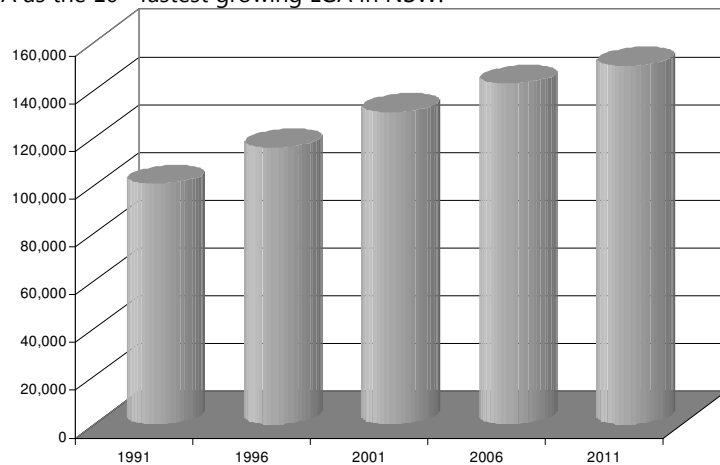


Figure 2: Historical and Projected Population Growth
(ABS Census 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006; ABS Estimate 2009; forecast.id® 2012)

Projected Population Change

An annual average growth rate of 1.4% is anticipated for future population growth in Wyong LGA to 2031. At this rate of increase, the population of Wyong LGA is expected to increase to 200,015 by 2031 (forecast.id, 2010).

DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE

Age Structure

Age structure is an indicator of the LGA's residential role and function, how it is likely to change in the future, and the anticipated level of demand for services and facilities.

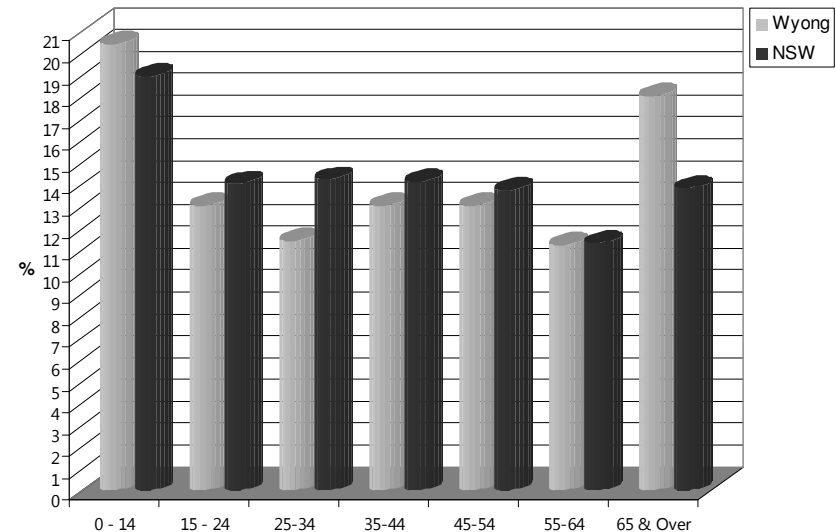


Figure 3: Comparison of Wyong and NSW Age Structures - 2009
(Community Plan 2008-2013)

The age profile of Wyong reflects the area's popularity with families as a place to bring up children, and older residents as a retirement destination. The major difference between the age structure of Wyong LGA and NSW is a larger percentage of 0-14 year olds, and people aged 65 and over. There is a smaller percentage of the remaining age groups within the population of Wyong LGA compared to the NSW average.

Table 4: Age Structure Change 2006-2009 – Wyong Shire
(Community Plan 2008-2013)

	2006		2009		Change
	%	NSW %	%	NSW %	
0 - 14	21.2	19.6	20.4	18.9	↓
15 - 24	12.3	13.6	13.0	14.0	↑
25 - 34	11.4	14.1	11.4	14.2	≈
35 - 44	13.5	14.6	13.0	14.1	↓
45 - 54	12.8	13.7	13.0	13.7	↑
55 - 64	10.9	10.9	11.2	11.3	↑
65 & over	17.9	13.5	18.0	13.8	↑

Historically, out-migration has occurred in the 25-34 years age group, attributed to people in this age group moving to larger centres for lifestyle and employment reasons. As the above table demonstrates, this age group appears to be stabilising, however a decrease in population in the 35-44 year age group is noted. The 0-14 year's age group also demonstrated a significant decrease.

Family and Household Types

At the 2006 Census there were 38,035 families in Wyong LGA. Overall 41.1% of families were couples with children, 38.1% were couples without children and 19.6% were one-parent families, compared with 46.2%, 36% and 16.1% for NSW respectively. The LGA has a high proportion of lone person households, with 25.2% compared with 23.4% for NSW. This figure is expected to increase to 26.9% by 2021.

Cultural Diversity

The LGA is characterised by a moderately low level of diversity in terms of birthplace with a number of different countries represented in small groups. Overall 11.9% of the population was born overseas and 4.3% (5,800 persons) were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 23.8% and 16.8% respectively for NSW.

SOCIAL INDICATORS

Employment

Wyong has one of the lowest workforce participation rates (those aged over 15 who are either working or looking for work) of all regions in NSW. In March 2010, the Central Coast region's participation rate was 61.4% compared to the NSW average of 63.0% (ABS Census, 2006). At 8.8% in 2010, the unemployment rate for Wyong is significantly higher than the NSW average of 5.7% (ABS Census, 2006). The table below shows this discrepancy has been a relatively stable phenomenon.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Wyong %	8.3	7.9	7.6	8.7	8.8
NSW %	5.2	5.0	4.6	5.7	5.7

Table 5: Estimates of Unemployment (ABS Census, 2006)

The LGA also has a high ratio of part-time to full-time employment that may be hiding significant levels of underemployment. The 2007 Quality of Life Survey found that 32.5% of the region's residents who worked part-time would like to work more hours. In 2008, the most common occupation in the LGA was Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (both Intermediate and Elementary – 30.9%). Tradespersons and Labouring occupations comprise another 23.2% of employment in the LGA. There remains an under representation in professional and managerial roles (20.1%) compared with Sydney and NSW on average.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	% 17.3	17.8	18.0	18.4
Professionals	% 12.3	12.5	12.7	12.8
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	% 11.7	11.9	12.3	12.5
Tradespersons and Related Workers	% 12.1	11.9	11.8	12.0
Labourers and Related Workers	% 11.6	11.6	11.5	11.2
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	% 7.6	7.9	7.7	7.7
Associate Professionals	% 6.8	6.9	7.4	7.6
Managers and Administrators	% 7.3	7.5	7.2	7.3
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	% 2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1
Not Stated	% 10.9	9.7	9.2	8.4

Table 6: Employment by Industry Sector

Weekly and Household Income

The LGA has a significantly lower income profile than NSW. In 2006, the average weekly household income was \$770 in comparison to \$1,036 for NSW.

Weekly household income	Wyong	NSW
	%	%
Negative / Nil income	0.9	1.3
\$1 to \$149	1.4	1.5
\$150 to \$249	6.4	5.2
\$250 to \$349	9.8	6.9
\$350 to \$499	7.5	5.2
\$500 to \$649	13.3	10.1
\$650 to \$799	6.5	6.0
\$800 to \$999	7.0	6.5
\$1000 to \$1199	10.2	10.0
\$1200 to \$1399	5.5	5.0
\$1400 to \$1699	6.5	7.1
\$1700 to \$1999	4.8	5.9
\$2000 to \$2499	4.4	6.0
\$2500 to \$2999	2.9	6.0
\$3000 or more	1.9	6.0
Partial income stated	7.3	8.2
Income not stated	3.8	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 7: Weekly Household Income (ABS Census, 2006)